



UPCOMING EVENTS ...

STOP PRESS!

The IBEX Annual General Meeting

"Supercasino for Southampton - Details announced"

With guest Rachel Lampard –

the Leader of the JPIT – Joint Public Issues Team

Put the date in your diary – Thursday, 9 June at 7pm - for the IBEX AGM at the [Central Baptist Church](#) in Southampton.

The formalities of the evening will be kept to a bare minimum – and that is a promise.

The main thrust of the evening will be about **gambling**. You might note from the Government website that Southampton City Council is still one of the bodies which has the power and possibility of granting a licence for a **Supercasino**. There is work going on at the moment to develop the detailed proposal of how and where this will happen. While it may not be true to say that this is cloaked in secrecy, it is true to say that it is not exactly in the Public Eye. And plenty of people are concerned at what an impact this might have locally, while recognising also that there would be positive aspects to any development.

We are lucky enough to have the leader of the JPIT – Joint Public Issues

Team, the Methodist/Baptist/United reformed Church/Church of Scotland national body – lined up to come and talk to us - Rachel Lampard, who has been involved in such things for a long time. Rachel is a knowledgeable figure on gambling, a subject about which she is passionate. She was a member of the Government’s Gambling Commission until she stepped down in 2015 after 9 years, and has now been appointed to the Gambling Commission’s Responsible Gambling Strategy board.

Latest updates on the gambling issue can be found [here](#) - Stop Press!

Another - “What Shall We Do With our Church” Training Day

at [Buckland United Reformed Church](#), Portsmouth
from 10.30am to 3pm on Saturday, June [date tbc]

Our first “What Shall We Do With Our Church” training Day took place at Buckland URC when it was still a grim forbidding Victorian “pile” – deliberate exaggeration there for dramatic effect, because it was not as bad as I have just painted. But it has now been dramatically transformed – and that is **no** exaggeration. We have decided to use it to show just what can be achieved where there’s a will, even with a small group of willing and inspired people.

So if you have that dilemma of wanting to do something to make your Church and its buildings more useful, whether it might need a re-modelling or rebuilding programme, or whether it is just about doing things a bit differently, then this might be the day for you. And we have definitely found that it can be useful to have more than one person coming from the same Church, so you don’t need to come by yourself.

So email us now on tl@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk to reserve your seat - bring your team with you to the training day and/or the IBEX

AGM. See you there?

David Wrighton

Are you or your church interested
in or involved in a retail or
city centre chaplaincy?

Chaplaincy and Shopping event

hosted by Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy

to

MEET, LEARN and

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER ...



Tuesday, 21 June 2016

Location - Winchester - to be advised

(within walking distance of Winchester Station)

Speaker - Canon Roly Riem

IBEX, together with the Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy, is hosting a forum for people

involved in chaplaincy, mainly aimed at retail or City/Town Centre Chaplains, but open to anyone who is interested.

IBEX has been involved in delivering, supporting, developing and encouraging chaplaincy for decades. The Winchester City Centre Chaplaincy is a robust presence in the city, caring for its people in retail, but also delivering Chaplaincy in the Courts Complex and to Winchester City Council.

Reverend Dr Canon Roland Riem - is Vice-Dean and Canon Chancellor of Winchester Cathedral. He is a former chair of the management committee of the City Centre Chaplaincy and a supporter of this area of work. Prior to his involvement at the Cathedral, he was Director of Ministry at STETS, based in Salisbury.

We are keen to support anyone involved in chaplaincy, and people who might be just thinking about it. You are not alone.

RSVP please to David WRIGHTON via [email](#) if you are interested in attending. We need to know in advance as lunch will be provided. The event (including lunch) will be free of charge.

The Buckland URC

re-modelling and modernisation project is finished!



Since Cliff Bembridge joined IBEX as part of an SCM post for the United Reformed Church, with a part of his time being spent as Minister of Buckland URC, Cliff has spent part of his time getting involved in an IBEX sort of way in things going on in Portsmouth, but has spent a good deal of his time concentrating on what to do with Buckland URC itself.

The negotiation around the establishment of the post in the first place included Buckland as a Church which needed to “do something”, which had ideas of what it wanted to do, architect’s plans as to a re-modelling and the willingness to change.

What has been achieved in about four and a half years is remarkable. What looked like enormously ambitious plans were adapted, broken down in to manageable chunks, talked

about, fund raised for with a genuine emphasis on what good this was all going to do for the community, and now completed – or at least the first – and major part of it.

And the Mayor came, the Deputy Mayor and a lot of other people to celebrate what was now an extremely bright and attractive space – so different to what was there before. And it's an enormous visual aid, a potential inspiration to anyone who might have ideas about what to do themselves, but who lacks the courage to take the first step. Get in touch and come and have a look.

And that is not a throw-away invitation. We really mean it!

See our IBEX [website](#) for a report on the project, and the Buckland URC [website](#) and click on 'Pictures' for more photographs of the project from start to finish.

Report back on our most recent

“What Shall We Do With our Church” Training Day



A good number of us met at Parkstone URC – aka [Parkstone Christian Centre](#) – to look at what can be done with some hard work and serious application to make a fairly downbeat Church a lively community hub.

It probably all started with a Chaplaincy – some years ago Parkstone URC saw the

appointment of a minister who was also to be the part-time Chaplain to the Borough of Poole Council, and the entrepreneurial spirit that the first incumbent of the post – Jonathan Martin – brought saw this develop in all sorts of ways.

It has to be said that the Church is well situated, being a couple of minutes walk from the Council Offices, but it has used that fact and the other advantages of its position well. The current leader of the Church, Mark Phillips, exhibited boundless enthusiasm as he detailed all the various things that go on at this place, the hard work that had gone in to developing relationships locally, and the hard work that continues to go on to maintain and further develop things. No resting on our laurels here.

And there is the same sort of spirit we have come across elsewhere. The realisation that this needs to be done – that money needs to be earned – to keep the premises open, but at the same time being a generous host to worthwhile things going on locally which are deserving of support.

Thanks you Mark, and thanks to all who came who helped make it an inspiring day.

'It's Make Your Mind Up Time' on the European Referendum -



but perhaps we can point you in the

direction of information to help form a sensible view?



That's what Hughie Green used to say on *Opportunity Knocks*, if anyone else out there is old enough to remember that. We think it needs to be emphasised how important this particular vote is. Although one or two politicians seem to think it is just a bargaining tool and that a vote to leave would just lead to an improved offer, we think that is a dangerous attitude to adopt, and that we have to work on the basis that "in" is in and "out" is out.

But does just saying that mean that we are showing bias in the debate, because that is the last thing that we would want to do at this juncture. What we do want to do is emphasise just how important this is, echoing the views of those who have said that this vote is probably more important than a vote in any general Election, because it will affect what happens for this country for generations to come.

There is much being said about "scare stories" and scaremongering at the moment, and most sensible people would realise that there is certainly some 'rubbish' coming out from both sides of the argument – the truth being that nobody could actually state for sure what will happen down the line, whichever way the vote goes.

**One thing that we can do is point you towards two things
which might help form a sensible view.**

One is a website, one is an event about Europe. One thing, though, that we would want to stress, is that it is not just about the money. The mixture of these two pointers might help emphasise that.

The University of Winchester is putting on an event on 9th April (cost £12) entitled "[Keeping Faith in Europe](#)", which looks to have some speakers who will be well-informed on the matter, from a theological as well as a political/economic point of view. I, your editor, will be there for one!

Secondly, the website. My political Local Government Employee daughter has pointed me towards the [Full Fact website](#), which looks to me to be about as unbiased as you can get, answering questions with facts, countering half-truths with facts, and giving you the true picture on, for example, how much it costs us to be part of Europe.

Southampton / Portsmouth Devolution

People might have seen on the television news in the South a few times in recent weeks items about things going on which might lead to things being done in Southampton, Portsmouth and the areas around them. This includes the possibility of having an elected Mayor of the Solent region. Unlike the stuff about Europe (above), this is not something that anyone will have a vote on.

But it's about Devolution, about a group of Local Authorities getting together to apply to the Government to do things differently and, to cut a long story short, if their bid is successful, they get to keep the business rates paid locally to use for Economic development.

That is a great over-simplification, but to help people come to grips with it, herewith:

1. A [link to the devolution proposal submitted](#) to the Government to apply for this, and
2. A [link to the latest edition of Policybite](#), from Action Hampshire, which explains something about the current situation.

Who is IBEX?

IBEX – the Church working in the Economy Central South Coast

IBEX is a Christian organisation relating faith to economic life, in Hampshire and Dorset, mainly Bournemouth and Poole.

We are funded by the URC Wessex Synod, Southampton Methodist District and Baptist Home Mission.

Our main areas of activity:

- Support for local churches serving their communities
- Work with Partner Organisations on Community Projects e.g. local authorities, statutory and voluntary organisations
- Support and development of Chaplaincy

Copyright © 2014 IBEX All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is: newsletter@ibexsouthcoast.org.uk

